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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,348	08/28/2003	Daniel Ray Downing	DN2001124D01	6674

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THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 823
1144 EAST MARKET STREET
AKRON, OH 44316-0001

EXAMINER

PETERSON, KENNETH E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3724

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12/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/650,348

Applicant(s)

DOWNING, DANIEL RAY

Examiner

Kenneth E. Peterson

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 20, 22 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 20, 22, 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

1. The amendment filed 27 Aug 07 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:

The changes to figure 5A is new matter. In the amended figure 5A, the angle α is shown being between the bottom of the cutting element (120) and the 1st side (bottom side) of the strip (1) on the $\theta 1$ side of the anvil. In the specification, the angle α is defined most comprehensively in paragraph 42 as being between an unidentified surface of the cutting element (120) and the *second* side of the strip (1), without stating is this is in reference to the $\theta 1$ or $\theta 2$ side of the anvil. Furthermore, the original disclosure showed α in completely different locations in figure 7 and 8b.

The changes to figure 8b are new matter. The original description of the angles α , $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ are so vague that one of ordinary skill could not derive that the cut strip would have an angle of $90 - \alpha$. See the 112 rejections below for an elaboration on why the angles α , $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ are vague.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The reference in the specification to figure 7 should be removed, since Applicant has cancelled figure 7.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-5,20,22 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In general, the details of the cutting action do not enable one of ordinary skill to use the device. The following questions should help Applicant ascertain the specification's shortcomings;

In paragraph 0015 is the step of "*setting a gap distance (d) above the support approximately slightly less than or equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component*". Wouldn't the blade need to penetrate at least halfway into the cord reinforced component to engage and lift a cord as seen in figure 5B? If the gap is maintained at "*slightly less than or equal to the thickness of the cord reinforced component*", then the blade will never reach halfway into the cord reinforced component and the cut will never be completed. If the "gap" is not maintained at "d", then there really is no gap, is there? It seems as if Applicant wants it both ways, with a gap being maintained AND the blade penetrating into the gap.

In paragraph 0017 is the recitation "*the means for supporting the strip has two surfaces inclined at angles θ_1 , and θ_2 respectively, θ_1 is preferably set about 2° less*

than the skive angle α , the angle θ_2 is about 2° more than the skive angle α . In one embodiment, the skive angle α is set to about 8° . This phrase lacks clarity in several ways. What are these angles being measured relative to? Does the term “more” mean “more in the clockwise direction” or “more in the counterclockwise direction” when viewed from which side? The term “less” has similar problems. On page 8 of Applicant’s remarks file 31 October 07, Applicant states that angles θ_1 and θ_2 are measured relative to the horizontal. Examiner notes that making remarks does not alleviate one from making corrections to the specification. Applicant is reminded that one of ordinary skill must be able to make and use the device based upon reading the specification and drawings, and NOT upon reading Applicant’s remarks. Even taking into account that θ_1 and θ_2 are measured from the horizontal, it is not clear if θ_1 is rotated clockwise or counterclockwise from the horizontal. Furthermore, the drawings (e.g. figures 5a-5c) show θ_1 as being zero degrees relative to the horizontal, thus creating further confusion

5. Claims 1-5,20,22 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Examiner is required to read the claims in light of the specification. However, Examiner does not understand the specification, and therefor does not understand the scope of the claims. In particular, it is not clear how much weight should be given to the “gap” and the angles θ_2 and θ_1 .

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3,20,22 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al.'508 in view of Benzing, II et al.'101.

Bell discloses a method of cutting stock material comprising most of the method steps claimed including cutting the segment at a skive angle A. Note Figs. 6-7. Bell is silent as to the stock material being cord reinforced, but Benzing clearly teaches a method of cutting cord reinforced elastomeric strip material (10A) wherein during cutting, the cutter (120) impacts the cord at an angle of less than 10° (line 48, column 6). Note Figs. 3A-D and 6. Benzing at least teaches and suggests that angled cutting of cord reinforced material is known and obvious in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of the instant invention to provide the method of Bell et al with the cutting of cord reinforced elastomeric material at an angle of less than 10° as taught and suggested by Benzing, as an alternate way of cutting Benzing's material. Note that this alternate way is suggested by Benzing himself on lines 32-34, column 9.

As discussed above, the meaning of Applicant's "gap" is not known, and thus Bell is deemed to have a "gap" to the same extent that Applicant does.

8. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al.'508 in view of Benzing, II et al.'101, as set forth above, and further in view of Sergel et al.'601 or Oldeman '774.

Bell, as modified above, discloses the invention substantially as claimed except that it appears Bell's support (e.g. at 10 in Fig. 2) lacks the θ_1 and θ_2 angles as claimed. However, Sergel and Oldeman teach a step of supporting the material wherein a means for supporting (e.g. 7, 8) having a first supporting surface is disposed at an θ_1 greater than the skive angle (formed by blade 12 - the first surface below 12) and a second surface is oriented at an angle θ_2 greater than or equal to the skive angle for the suggestive purpose of allowing for easy separation between the cut parts of the work. See also column 3, lines 42-65. Thus, it would have been obvious to the ordinary artisan at the time of the instant invention to provide the modified method of Bell with step of supporting having the support surfaces and angles as taught and suggested by Sergel or Oldeman in order to facilitate production of the desired bevel angle.

9. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has attempted to address the New Matter objection and the 112, 1st paragraph rejection with limited success. Examiner again suggests filing a CIP so that the inventive concept can be fleshed out without raising the issue of new matter.

Applicant argues that he has explained the device sufficiently, and that there is no need for the Examiner to understand how it works. Applicant is incorrect. Examiner is sure that the device works in some fashion, but the Examiner needs to know *exactly*

how it works so that he can properly interpret the claim language so that he can determine what does or does not infringe upon the claims.

Applicant's attempts to describe the α , $\theta 2$ and $\theta 1$ angles has been helpful, especially the indication that $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ are measured from the horizontal. Examiner still does not appreciate how or if the gap is maintained. Given the disclosed ranges of α , $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$, it appears that there are some embodiments where the gap is maintained, and other embodiments where it is not maintained. In the unclaimed embodiments where the gap is not maintained (where the gap narrows over time), Examiner understands that the knife would eventually hit a cord, snag, and cut all the way thru. In the claimed embodiment where the gap is maintained (held constant during cutting), Examiner does not understand how the knife would ever contacts a cord, and thus Examiner perceives that the knife would never cut all the way thru. In the previous action, Examiner asked if the strip "bunches up" in front of the moving knife, thus lifting the cord layer out of the maintained gap. Examiner does not see anywhere that Applicant responded to this question.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the prior art are noted, but they hinge upon an understanding of the gap and angles that Examiner cannot find support for.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth E. Peterson whose telephone number is 571-272-4512. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:30-4:30.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

kp



KENNETH E. PETERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER